UNITED
NATIONS

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Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1997/238
19 March 1997

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 19 MARCH 1997 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF KENYA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to bring to your attention the text of the communiqué of the Summit of the Nairobi II Committee on the Crisis on the Great Lakes Region (see annex) and to request that you circulate the present letter and its annex as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Njuguna M. MAHUGU, OGW
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex

Communiqué issued at Nairobi on 19 March 1997 by the Summit of the Nairobi II Committee on the Crisis in the Great Lakes Region

1. At the invitation of President Daniel T. arap Moi of the Republic of Kenya, Heads of State and Government forming the Committee of Four, as mandated by the Nairobi II Summit of 16 December 1996, namely, President Robert G. Mugabe of the Republic of Zimbabwe, Deputy President Thabo Mbeki of the Republic of South Africa, representing President Nelson R. Mandela, Prime Minister Peter Mafany Musonge, representing President Paul Biya of the Republic of Cameroon, current Chairman of the Organization of African Unity (OAU), met at Nairobi on 19 March 1997 to pursue the peace initiative on eastern Zaire. President Pascal Lissouba of the Republic of the Congo and Prime Minister Kengo wa Dondo of the Republic of Zaire attended by special invitation.

2. Also participating in the Summit was the Secretary-General of OAU, Mr. Salim Ahmed Salim, and Ambassador Mohamed Sahnoun, Joint United Nations/OAU Special Representative for the Great Lakes Region.

3. The Summit examined developments in the region since Nairobi II and expressed grave concern at the rapidly deteriorating situation in eastern Zaire, in particular the continued loss of life, suffering of refugees, displaced persons and other victims of the conflict and the destruction of property and infrastructure.

4. The Summit urged all parties to do their utmost to facilitate access for humanitarian assistance and invited all United Nations agencies and other humanitarian organizations to provide that assistance.

5. The Summit reaffirmed its commitment to respect of the unity, territorial integrity and sovereignty of Zaire as provided for in the Charters of the OAU and the United Nations.

6. The Summit welcomed the participation of Zaire and reaffirmed its commitment to the search for peace in an effort to achieve a lasting solution to the crisis.

7. The Summit reaffirmed the urgent need for the implementation of the OAU/United Nations peace plan as provided for in Security Council resolution 1097 (1997) of 18 February 1997. It welcomed the acceptance of the plan by the Government of Zaire and also took note of the acceptance in principle by the other party. The Summit urged all parties to the conflict unconditionally to accept and implement the peace plan.

8. The Summit urged the parties to the conflict to cease hostilities immediately and to create the necessary environment to facilitate a negotiated settlement.

9. The Summit resolved that diplomatic efforts should be intensified in the search for a lasting solution to the Zairian crisis and urged that, in so doing, all initiatives be coordinated, and in this context welcomed the forthcoming extraordinary summit of the Central Organ of OAU at Lomé, on 26 March 1997.

10. The Summit underscored the importance of establishing a mechanism for monitoring the implementation of the OAU/United Nations peace plan. In that context, the Summit stressed the importance of Africa's making its own significant contribution to the Mechanism. The Summit invites the Central Organ of the OAU Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution, meeting at Lomé on 26 March 1997, to address this issue.

11. The Summit expressed its appreciation to President Daniel T. arap Moi and to the Government and people of Kenya for hosting the meeting and for the warm welcome and hospitality accorded to the delegations.